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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS-23

BAE

OCTOBER 10, 1944

LARGE GRAIN HARVEST

Record *corn* crop being harvested. Production estimated about 3.2 billion bushels, which would exceed previous record in 1943 by 65 million. Corn crop has exceeded 3 billion bushels only four times in history. Stocks of old corn left on farms October 1 were 210 million bushels, smallest stocks since 1937 and equivalent to only 7.6 percent of 1943 crop.

Some spring *wheat* lost by rain at harvest. Indicated production all wheat on October 1 was 1,109 million bushels, slightly under September estimate. Crop, nevertheless is largest in U. S. history and second one over a billion bushels. Stocks of wheat on farms October 1, 546 million bushels, compared with 520 million year ago and 10-year average of 355 million. Farm stocks of wheat exceeded only once before (1942).

October *oats* estimate slightly larger than September. Crop placed at 1,192 million bushels, compared with 1,144 million last year and 10-year average (1933-42) of 1,028 million. Oats acreage was large and yields better than average in main areas. Farm stocks of oats estimated 970 million bushels, 15 percent above average.

Barley crop estimated 287 million bushels, 11 percent below last year but 12 percent above average. Acreage was off 14 percent under last year.

Buckwheat estimated 9,101,000 bushels, largest since 1928, compares with last year's crop of 8,830,000 and average 7,020,000 bushels. However, for a long period prior to 1929 buckwheat crop ran over 10 million bushels.

Rice crop 70 million bushels, 41 percent above the 1933-42 average. Large acreage this year but yields slightly below average.

OTHER IMPORTANT CROPS

Late *potatoes* benefited by September rains and mild weather, total crop now indicated 381 million bushels, compared with 465 million last year and ten-year average 363 million.

Sweetpotato crop 73.5 million bushels, compared with 72.6 million last year; is 9 percent above average crop of 67 million.

Sugar beets 7,239,000 tons, which would be 11 percent above last year's small crop although 28 percent below average.

Sugar cane 6,303,000 tons for both sugar and seed; compares with 6,510,000 tons last year and average of

5,329,000 tons.

Soybeans estimated 186 million bushels, about 5 percent under last year and slightly less than 1942

Peanuts to be picked and threshed this year estimated 2,346 million pounds; compares with 2,200 million last year and ten-year average of 1,342 million.

Tame hay crop indicated 84 million tons, 3 million less than last year but 9 million above average. Wild hay crop nearly 14 million tons, largest since 1927. Alfalfa yields generally below average east of Mississippi but good in West. Total crop about 31 million tons, about 1 million under last year.

MORE FRUIT THAN LAST YEAR

Good *apple* crop—commercial crop estimated 122 million bushels, 37 percent above last year but about 1 percent below 9-year average (1934-42). Hurricane damaged apples along Northeast Coast.

Large *peach* crop—totals 72 million bushels, compared with 42 million last year and 58 million average.

Pear crop nearly 30 million bushels, about 20 percent above last year and 3 percent above average.

Grape crop indicated 2,697,000 tons, compared with 2,973,000 tons last year and ten-year average of 2,371,000 tons. California crop 11 percent below last year. Raisin grapes placed at 1,450,000 tons—above average although 13 percent below last year.

WHEAT SUPPLIES SEEM AMPLE

Domestic wheat supply, not including imports, for 1944-45 now indicated at about 1,447 million bushels. Slightly more expected to be used this year than last for food, seed, and alcohol, but less for feed. Imports will be less than last year; exports now uncertain.

Stocks July 1, 1944 were 315 million bushels and, considering likely disappearance, stocks a year hence may not differ much.

1944 world wheat production, excluding USSR and China, expected to be little different from 1943—more in North America offset by less in other countries. Wheat stocks in four major exporting countries July 1, 1944 estimated about 1,170 million bushels, compared with 1935-39 average of 457 million. Surplus should go far toward meeting all import requirements unless Europe takes abnormally large shipments during 1944-45.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	AUG. 15 1944	SEPT. 15 1944	SEPT. 15 1944
Wheat, bu. dol.	1.35	1.35	1.50
Corn, bu. dol.	1.17	1.16	1.09
Oats, bu. dol.	.708	.642	.678
Cotton, lb. ct.	20.15	21.02	21.08
Potatoes, bu. dol.	1.59	1.47	1.23
Hogs, 100 lb. dol.	13.50	13.60	12.40
Beef cattle, 100 lb. . . dol.	11.70	11.60	9.21
Veal calves, 100 lb. . . dol.	12.90	12.90	11.50
Lambs, 100 lb. dol.	12.30	12.10	10.00
Butterfat, lb. ct.	50.2	50.2	44.4
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. . dol.	3.21	3.26	2.80
Chickens, live, lb. . . . ct.	24.1	23.7	19.4
Eggs, doz. ct.	33.0	35.5	40.3

¹Adjusted for seasonal variation.

RECORD YIELD PER ACRE OF COTTON

This year's cotton crop forecast at 11,953,000 bales, of 500 pounds gross weight, according to October 1 indications. This compares with 11,427,000 bales last year and 12,455,000 bales for the ten-year average (1933-42). Average yield of lint per acre highest ever known, 284.6 pounds, compared with previous all-time record yield of 272.4 pounds in 1942. Acreage yield for the ten-year average was 226.9 pounds.

CIGARETTES

Cigarette consumption in U. S. last year (ending June 30, 1944) largest ever known, 258 billion cigarettes; increase of 5.5 percent over preceding year and a per capita consumption of 1,888 cigarettes—almost 60 times the number used in 1900. Consumption in recent months tending to level off, however. This is main outlet for big crops of flue-cured and burley tobacco.

1944 crop of flue-cured tobacco estimated second largest on record 1,047 million pounds, compared with 788 million last year and the record crop of 1,171 million in 1939. Burley crop this year estimated about 441 million pounds, 13 percent over last year's large crop.

MILK PRODUCTION HOLDING WELL

Milk production during September 9.4 billion pounds, compared with 9.3 billion last year and 8.5 billion ten-year September average. Milk output, January through September, 93 billion pounds, against 93.2 billion in like period last year and 83.6 the ten-year average. Number of dairy cows in mid-1944 about 2 percent above year previous. More cows and more grain fed offset poor pasture.

Creamery butter production in July estimated 155 million pounds, 15 percent below last year and lowest since 1922.

Stocks of butter in cold storage August 1 totaled 138 million pounds, about 35 percent below last year and 3.5 under 5-year August 1 average.

PEAK EGG PRODUCTION-- DECLINE AHEAD

Hens laid 3.5 billion eggs in September, a record output for the month—6 percent above previous high last year and 48 percent above 10-year average. Average number layers in farm flocks during September 341 million, an increase of 3 percent over last year and 31 percent above ten-year average.

Number of pullets on farms October 1 was 344 million, 12 percent less than year ago although 26 percent above 10-year average. Total number of potential layers October 1 (hens and pullets) estimated 571 million, 7 percent under year ago but 27 percent above average. Other young chickens on

farms, mostly cockerels and young chickens for meat, 99 million, 34 percent under last year and 8 percent below average.

Total shell and frozen eggs in cold storage September 1 were equivalent to 17.6 million cases, 900,000 cases above last year's record stocks. Shell eggs 7.7 million cases, 1.5 million above last year and largest stock for that date since 1937.

LESS MEAT IN SIGHT

Hogs are coming on the market in lighter weights than last year, due to less grain and less favorable price ratio. Average weight of all hogs at 7 principal markets in August 263 pounds, 23 pounds under year earlier. With 24 percent reduction in spring pig crop this year and lower weights, the total pork supply will be under last year.

Total slaughter sheep and lambs in Federally inspected plants 1,923,765 head in August. August slaughter in comparable plants 16 percent below year previous.

PLENTY OF TURKEY (FOR ARMED FORCES)

Turkey production now estimated at about ¼ billion pounds, dressed weight, about 20 million above earlier estimates. This is 8 percent above last year and exceeds turkey production in any other previous year on record. Heavy war demand will leave civilian supply short, with prices at ceiling levels.

LESS HIRED FARM LABOR

Total number workers on farms September 1 was 11,040,000, about 4 percent less than year previous and 8 percent under 1935-39 average. Number family workers, 8,223,000, compared with 8,402,000 year earlier, a decline of 2 percent. Number hired workers 2,817,000,

compared with 3,100,000 year previous, a decline of 9 percent. Chief reduction in hired help was in East South Central Region, due mainly to rains and slow maturing of cotton crop.

FARM INCOME

Total receipts from farm products sold during August \$1,748 million, including \$51 million Government payments. Like figure in August 1943 was \$1,850 million, which included \$78 million Government payments.

The January-August total receipts this year \$12,574 million, compared with \$11,615 million in the like period last year. These figures included \$606 million of Government payments this year and \$496 million last year.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142-Branch 4407.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	SEPTEMBER 1944
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	192
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes	1910-14 = 100	170
Parity ratio	1910-14 = 100	113
Wholesale prices of food . .	1910-14 = 100	161
Retail prices of food . . .	1910-14 = 100	178
Farm wage rates	1910-14 = 100	1328
Weekly factory earnings . .	1910-14 = 100	2418
RATIOS	LONG-TIME SEPT.-AVERAGE	SEPTEMBER 1944
Hog-corn ratio, U. S. . . .	11.7	11.7
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. .	24.6	25.7
Milk-feed ratio, U. S. . . .	1.27	1.45
Egg-feed ratio, U. S. . . .	18.1	15.9
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN.-AUG. 1943	JAN.-AUG. 1944
Milk, (Bil. lb.)	83.9	83.7
Eggs, (Bil.)	41.9	44.3
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . .	3,637	4,281
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	567	555
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.) . . .	7,796	9,330
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	12,295	14,660

¹Aug. figure.

²Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. June figure.